



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

A. Hussain Alhija, Acting Program Manager
Waste Diversion and Utilization Program
Land Management Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 610
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719

SEP 18 2014

Re: NPDES Permit No. MDG01/14AF - Reissuance
Maryland General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations

Dear Mr. Alhija:

According to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), EPA has reviewed the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) *General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations (MDG01/14AF)* (hereinafter referred to as the "draft permit") submitted by MDE on September 8, 2014. As a result of our review, and pursuant to 40 CFR § 123.44, the purpose of this letter is to provide MDE with EPA's final position on the draft permit.

The draft permit as written builds upon MDE's draft permit transmittals, EPA's comments and recommendations, and our subsequent conversations. Since the commencement of the draft permit package review process in June 2014, the collective efforts between agencies culminated in numerous improvements to the draft permit. We appreciate the extensive work and close communication between us in the process to ensure a successful outcome, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation as MDE works to meet its responsibilities of implementing its NPDES CAFO program. This letter closes out our review, and therefore we will not be providing any additional comments regarding the draft permit.

We have no objection to the issuance of the draft permit as written. If for any reason, the draft permit is modified from the version that was submitted to us on September 8, 2014, please forward a copy of the new draft permit to us for review before issuance. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me or contact Mr. Joel Blanco-Gonzalez at (215) 814-2768, of the NPDES Permits Branch.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Trulear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Trulear" being the most legible parts.

Brian Trulear, Chief
NPDES Permits Branch

Cc: Gary Kelman, MDE AFO Section